

CLAIMS

1. A method of imposing groups of printable pages, the pages varying in at least one of dimension and orientation, on printable sheets, comprising:

5 providing a representation of a printable sheet;

dividing said printable sheet representation into slots, each slot adapted to receive a printable page

assigning a printable page to each slot; and

setting at least one of alignment, offset and scaling, wherein said

10 settings are applicable to one of a current slot, a row of slots, a column of slots and a sheet of slots.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said scaling settings include any of:

15 a 'scale to fit' mode;

a 'custom' mode;

a 'fit width mode'; and

a 'fit height' mode.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

20 rotating pages on said sheet in ninety degree increments.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising any of:

defining sheet size;

defining creep adjustment;

25 defining sheet orientation;

defining at least one of rows and columns;

defining printer's marks; and

defining finishing options.

30 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein defining printer's marks comprises:

defining trim marks; and

defining fold marks.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein defining trim marks comprises:
defining horizontal and vertical length;
defining line type;
defining line width; and
defining line color.

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7. The method of Claim 5, wherein defining fold marks comprises:
defining horizontal and vertical length;
defining line type;
10 defining line width; and
defining line color.

8. The method of Claim 4, wherein defining finishing options comprises:
defining binding options; and
15 defining options for ganged print jobs.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising any of:
adding sheets;
duplicating a sheet;
20 deleting a sheet; and
editing a page.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
saving imposition attributes to a template.

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11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
specifying imposition attributes by applying a template.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising;
30 previewing said sheets.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein previewing said sheets comprises
any of:

editing any of said printable pages; and
setting gutter size.

14. A method for formatting printable information, comprising:

5 providing a plurality of data objects;
presenting said objects in a common format;
selecting at least some of said data objects;
ordering said selected data objects into a first sequence so that said
ordered objects comprise a printable document, each object comprising a
10 printable page, the printable pages either uniform in dimension and
orientation or varying in at least one of dimension and orientation; and
imposing groups of said printable pages on printable sheets, such
that a page sequence of a final printed document matches said first
sequence after post-printing processing of sheets printed from said printable
15 sheets.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said data objects comprise any of
pages from digital documents and digital images, and wherein said common
format comprises a common page description language.

20 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said page description language
comprises portable document format (PDF).

17. The method of Claim 14, wherein imposing groups of said printable
25 pages comprises any of:

imposing a group of printable pages on each sheet; and
imposing a group of printable pages on each sheet, wherein the
printable pages are of uniform dimension and orientation.

30 18. The method of Claim 17, wherein imposing a group of printable pages
on each sheet comprises:

providing a representation of a printable sheet;

dividing said printable sheet representation into slots, each slot adapted to receive a printable page

assigning a printable page to each slot by placing a representation of said printable page in said slot; and

5 setting at least one of alignment, offset and scaling, wherein said settings are applicable to one of a current slot, a row of slots, a column of slots and a sheet of slots;

wherein said group of printable pages includes one of:

pages of uniform dimension and orientation; and

10 pages varying in at least one of dimension and orientation.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein scaling settings include any of:

a 'scale to fit' mode;

a 'custom' mode;

15 a 'fit width' mode; and

a 'fit height' mode.

20. The method of Claim 18, further comprising:

rotating pages on said sheet in ninety degree increments.

21. The method of Claim 17, wherein imposing printable pages of uniform dimension comprises:

providing a representation of a printable sheet;

dividing said printable sheet representation into slots, each slot

25 adapted to receive a printable page;

assigning a printable page to each slot; and

automatically setting alignment and offset and applying identical settings to each slot.

30 22. The method of Claim 21, further comprising:

setting scaling, wherein an identical setting is automatically applied to each slot.

23. The method of Claim 21, wherein said scaling settings include any of:
a 'scale to fit' mode; and
a custom mode.

5 24. The method of Claim 21, further comprising:
setting and defining bleeds.

25. The method of Claim 21, further comprising:
rotating pages on said sheet in one hundred eighty degree
10 increments.

26. The method of Claim 17, further comprising any of:
defining sheet size;
defining creep adjustment;
defining sheet orientation;
defining at least one of rows and columns;
defining printer's marks; and
defining finishing options.

15 27. The method of Claim 26, wherein defining printer's marks comprises:
defining trim marks; and
defining fold marks.

20 28. The method of Claim 27, wherein defining trim marks comprises:
defining horizontal and vertical length;
defining line type;
defining line width; and
defining line color.

25 29. The method of Claim 27, wherein defining fold marks comprises:
defining horizontal and vertical length;
defining line type;
defining line width; and

defining line color.

30. The method of Claim 26, wherein defining finishing options comprises:

5 defining binding options; and
defining options for ganged print jobs.

31. The method of Claim 17, further comprising any of:

adding sheets;
10 duplicating a sheet;
deleting a sheet; and
editing a page.

32. The method of Claim 17, further comprising:

15 saving imposition attributes to a template.

33. The method of Claim 17, further comprising specifying imposition attributes by applying a template.

20 34. The method of Claim 14, further comprising previewing said sheets.

35. The method of Claim 34, wherein previewing said sheets comprises any of:

25 editing any of said printable pages; and
setting gutter size.

36. The method of Claim 14, further comprising printing said sheets.

37. The method of Claim 36, further comprising any of:

30 cutting said printed sheets;
folding said printed sheets;
collating printed pages cut from said printed sheets; and
binding said printed pages.

38. A system for formatting printable information, comprising:
at least one server;
at least one workstation connected to said server;
5 at least one output device connected to said server;
a plurality of data objects, the data objects stored on said server in a common format; and
computer-readable code means for:
selecting at least some of said data objects;
10 ordering said selected data objects into a first sequence so that said ordered objects comprise a printable document, each object comprising a printable page, the printable pages either uniform in dimension and orientation or varying in at least one of dimension and orientation; and
15 imposing groups of said printable pages on printable sheets, such that a page sequence of a final printed document matches said first sequence after post-printing processing of sheets printed from said printable sheets;
wherein the computer-readable code means is resident on said
20 server.

39. The system of Claim 38, wherein a user accesses said objects and said computer-readable code means by means of a graphical user interface (GUI) resident on said workstation.

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40. The system of Claim 38, wherein said data objects comprise any of pages from digital documents and digital images, and wherein said common format comprises a common page description language.

30 41. The system of Claim 40, wherein said page description language comprises portable document format (PDF).

42. The system of Claim 38, wherein the computer-readable code means for imposing groups of said printable pages comprises computer-readable code means for any of:

imposing a group of printable pages on each sheet; and

5 imposing a group of printable pages on each sheet, wherein the printable pages are of uniform dimension and orientation.

43. The system of Claim 42, wherein the computer-readable code means for imposing a group of printable pages on each sheet comprises computer-
10 readable code means for:

providing a representation of a printable sheet;

dividing said printable sheet representation into slots, each slot adapted to receive a printable page;

assigning a printable page to each slot; and

15 setting at least one of alignment, offset and scaling, wherein said settings are applicable to one of a current slot, a row of slots, a column of slots and a sheet of slots;

wherein said group of printable pages includes one of: pages of uniform dimension and orientation and pages varying in at least one of
20 dimension and orientation.

44. The system of Claim 43, wherein scaling settings include any of:

a 'scale to fit' mode;

a 'custom' mode;

25 a 'fit width' mode; and

a 'fit height' mode.

45. The system of Claim 42, further comprising computer-readable code means for:

30 rotating pages on said sheet in ninety degree increments.

46. The system of Claim 42, wherein the computer-readable code means for imposing printable pages of uniform dimension comprises computer-readable code means for:

providing a representation of a printable sheet;

5 dividing said printable sheet representation into slots, each slot adapted to receive a printable page;

assigning a printable page to each slot by placing a representation of said printable page in said slot; and

10 automatically setting alignment and offset and applying identical settings to each slot.

47. The system of Claim 46, further comprising computer-readable code means for:

15 setting scaling, wherein an identical setting is automatically applied to each slot.

48. The system of Claim 46, wherein said scaling settings include any of:

a 'scale to fit' mode; and
a custom mode.

20 49. The system of Claim 46, further comprising computer-readable code means for:

setting and defining bleeds.

25 50. The system of Claim 46, further comprising computer-readable code means for:

rotating pages on said sheet in one hundred eighty degree increments.

30 51. The system of Claim 42, further comprising computer-readable code means for any of:

defining sheet size;

defining creep adjustment;

defining sheet orientation;
defining at least one of rows and columns;
defining printer's marks; and
defining finishing options.

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52. The system of Claim 51, wherein the computer-readable code means for defining printer's marks comprises computer-readable code means for:
defining trim marks; and
defining fold marks.

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53. The system of Claim 52, wherein the computer-readable code means for defining trim marks comprises computer-readable code means for:

defining horizontal and vertical length;
defining line type;
defining line width; and
defining line color.

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54. The system of Claim 52, wherein the computer-readable code means for defining fold marks comprises computer-readable code means for:

20 defining horizontal and vertical length;
defining line type;
defining line width; and
defining line color.

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55. The system of Claim 51, wherein said computer-readable code means for defining finishing options comprises computer-readable code means for:
defining binding options; and
defining options for ganged print jobs.

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56. The system of Claim 51, further comprising computer-readable code means for any of:
adding sheets;

duplicating a sheet;
deleting a sheet; and
editing a page.

5 57. The system of Claim 51, further comprising computer-readable code
means for:

saving imposition attributes to a template.

10 58. The system of Claim 51, further comprising computer-readable code
means for specifying imposition attributes by applying a template.

59. The system of Claim 38, further comprising computer-readable code
means for previewing said sheets.

15 60. The system of Claim 59, wherein said computer-readable code
means for previewing said sheets comprises computer-readable code
means for any of:

editing any of said printable pages; and
setting gutter size.

20 61. The system of Claim 38, further comprising computer-readable code
means for printing said sheets from said output device.

62. The system of Claim 61, further comprising computer-readable code
25 means for any of:

cutting said printed sheets;
folding said printed sheets;
collating printed pages cut from said printed sheets;
binding said printed pages; and
stapling said printed pages.